

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claims 1-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 11-26 have been added. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 11-26 would be pending.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergsten (US Patent No. 6,345,368) in view of Her et al. (US Patent No. 5,634,040).

Claims 1-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

The newly added claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references. For example, Bergsten discloses a storage controller 3 which is configured to recover from failure modes such as block errors, device failures and communication path failures. According to the Bergsten method, the storage controller 3 automatically attempts to recover from failure using an alternate block, an alternate storage device and an alternate communication path, etc., if an error occurs during an I/O operation and the error is determined to result from predefined failure modes. See Bergsten, col. 8, lines 35-52.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Bergsten is silent as to (1) selecting a first operating mode where the storage device is used by the external apparatus and the second interface unit is disabled, if the control unit determines that the external apparatus is connected to the first interface unit, and (2) selecting a second operating mode where the storage device

operates as a file server and the second interface unit is enabled, if the control unit determines that the external apparatus is not connected to the first interface unit, as recited in claim 11. The remaining reference Her does not remedy the deficiencies in the Bergsten teachings.

Accordingly, claim 11 and its dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination. For similar reasons, claims 15, 19 and 23 and their dependent claims are also believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5280.

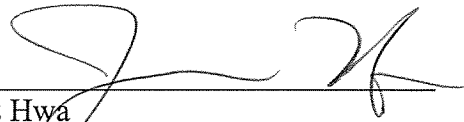
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5280.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: _____

7/27/06

By: _____



James Hwa
Registration No. 42,680
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101